

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BOMBAY 00547 071541Z
ACTION ERDA-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 OES-06 AID-05 IO-13 ACDA-07
NRC-05 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /064 W
-----072027Z 057308 /46

R 070957Z MAR 77
FM AMCONSUL BOMBAY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7128
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOMBAY 0547

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: TECH IN
SUBJ: TARAPUR

REF: BOMBAY 408

1. IAEC CHAIRMAN SETHNA HAS PROVIDED BY LETTER SOME SKETCHY DATA, WHICH HE HAS LABELLED "CONFIDENTIAL", REGARDING THE TIME-FRAME AND COST OF CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL CAPACITY FOR STORAGE OF WASTE FROM THE TARAPUR REACTORS. THESE DATA WERE PROMISED AT THE TIME OF THE DUBS/THORNTON/KUX VISIT. THE TEXT OF CHAIRMAN SETHNA'S LETTER IS GIVEN BELOW.

2. SETHNA'S DATA REFER ONLY TO A MAJOR PROGRAM TO PROVIDE IN-INDIA STORAGE FOR WASTE FOR THE PROJECTED EXTENDED LIFE OF THE TARAPUR REACTORS. THESE DATA DO NOT DEAL WITH MORE MODEST PROGRAMS SUCH AS RE-RACKING OR CONSTRUCTION OF SMALLER POOLS THAT WERE DISCUSSED BY CHAIRMAN SETHNA WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DUBS AND ON WHICH THE CONSULATE GENERAL EXPECTED TO RECEIVE COST AND TIME-FRAME CONSTRUCTION ESTIMATES. CONGEN WILL INQUIRE SOONEST ABOUT THESE GAPS.

3. COMMENT: CONGEN BELIEVES THAT THE DATA ARE SEKTCHY BECAUSE SETHNA HAS ALWAYS HAD DIFFICULTY IN CONVINCING HIS ASSOCIATES THAT IT IS IN INDIA'S INTEREST TO PROVIDE EXTENSIVE DATA ON SUCH CONFIDENTIAL

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MATTERS. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, THERE IS A PREVALENT VIEW IN THE IAEC THAT SUCH DATA HAS VALUE AND SHOULD ONLY BE RELEASED WHEN IT IS CLEARLY IN INDIA'S ADVANTAGE TO DO SO. SETHNA DOES NOT SHARE THIS VIEW BUT HAS NOT BEEN INCLINED TO ARGUE VIGOROUSLY EXCEPT WHEN WE HAVE INDICATED AN URGENT AND CRITICAL NEED FOR DETAILS.

4. CHAIRMAN SETHNA HAS BEEN PRE-OCCUPIED WITH OTHER THINGS LATELY

AND SINCE HE DID NOT HAVE A WRITTEN REQUEST FOR THESE DATA, IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT HE HAS SIMPLY FORGOTTEN THAT HE SAID HE WOULD PROVIDE DATA ON RE-RACK (PARTICULARLY THE CAPABILITY OF THE EXISTING POOLS TO SUPPORT GREATER LOADS) AND ON CONSTRUCTION COST FOR SMALLER POOLS. CONGEN BELIEVES THAT THESE DATA WILL BE FORTH-COMING WHEN THE LACUNAE ARE CALLED TO SETHNA'S ATTENTION. HOWEVER, DETAILS ON THE CONSTRUCTION TIME-FRAME WILL PROBABLY REQUIRE A MORE FORMAL REQUEST.

5. TEXT OF THE SUBSTANTIVE PART OF CHAIRMAN SETHNA'S LETTER DATED 5 MARCH 1977 FOLLOWS: QUOTE

(1) THE POSSIBILITY OF CONSTRUCTING AN ADDITIONAL STORAGE FACILITY FOR IRRADIATED FUEL FROM TAPS HAS BEEN STUDIED IN DETAIL AND THE OPTIMUM DESIGN HAS BEEN WORKED OUT. IT IS EXPECTED THAT OVER A 40 YEARS EXTENDED LIFE OF THE REACTOR ABOUT 6000 FUEL BUNDLES WOULD BE DISCHARGED. THE POOL HAS BEEN DESIGNED THEREFORE TO ACCEPT FUEL FOR THIS EXTENDED LIFE.

(2) THE STORAGE FACILITY WOULD BE LOCATED AT TARAPUR AND WOULD BE CAPABLE OF HANDLING FUEL CASKS UP TO 150 TONNES IN WEIGHT. THE CONSTRUCTION WILL BE DONE IN TWO STAGES. INITIALLY THE STORAGE CAPACITY WOULD BE FOR 20 YEARS FOLLOWED BY ANOTHER TANK WHICH WOULD HANDLE THE OTHER 20 YEARS.

(3) THE FACILITY, COMPLETE WITH THE CLEAN UP SYSTEM, VENTILATION, ETC, AS WELL AS THE CONGROL SYSTEM, WOULD COST APPROXIMATELY RS. 55 MILLION AND WOULD REQUIRE 52 MONTHS TO CONSTRUCT. THESE ESTIMATES ARE BASED ON COSTS PREVAILING IN DECEMBER 1976 AND NO CONFIDENTIAL

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PROVISION FOR ESCALATION HAS BEEN MADE. END QUOTE.
COURTNEY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR COOPERATION PROGRAMS, NUCLEAR FUELS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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From: BOMBAY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770388/aaaaczak.tel
Line Count: 99
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: 4c5e81bc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ERDA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Reference: 77 BOMBAY 408
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3191065
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TARAPUR
TAGS: TECH, IN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4c5e81bc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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